

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF EL-HAJJ MALIK EL-SHABAZZ A.K.A. MALCOLM X

WHEREAS, Malcolm X born as Malcolm Little (the fourth of eight children) to Louise, a homemaker, and Earl Little, a preacher who was also an active member of the local chapter of the Universal Negro Improvement Association on May 19, 1925, in Omaha, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X faced a significant amount of racially-motivated violence in his early life when his family was targeted and his father was killed because of his father's role in the civil rights movement, leaving his mother a widow; and

WHEREAS, Malcom X faced additional trauma as a child when his mother, was committed to an insane asylum in 1939, Malcolm and his siblings were sent to foster homes or to live with family members; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Malcolm X was arrested on charges of larceny and sentenced to 10 years in jail, while incarcerated he educated himself, he even read the entire dictionary and other such large volumes of books during his 6 ½ years; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X transformed his life while in prison, recovered from his addiction, dedicated himself to the improvement of himself and the black community, and converted to Islam before his release from prison in 1952; and

WHEREAS, after his release from prison, Malcolm X became minister in the Nation of Islam, human rights activist, and prominent black civil rights leader who influenced the work of various organizations around black Nationalist during the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, due largely to his leadership efforts, the Nation of Islam grew 400 members when he was released from prison in 1952 to 40,000 members by 1960; and

WHEREAS, in 1964 Malcolm X resigned from the NOI and announced the founding of Muslim Mosque, Inc., an Islamic movement and organization devoted to working in the political sphere and cooperating with civil rights leaders; and

WHEREAS, also in 1964, Malcolm X made his first pilgrimage to Mecca and returned on a second trip to Africa and other Arab nations aimed at organizing international support for his fight to end "human rights" violations against blacks in America; and upon returning from the Hajj to Mecca and his second tour of several African and Arab nations aimed at organizing international support of his fight to end human rights violations against blacks in America; and

WHEREAS, upon returning from the Hajj to Mecca and his second tour of several African and Arab nations, Malcolm had been given the new name "El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz," adopted from Sunni Islam,

called the first meeting of the Organization of Afro-American Unity and announced he had found the "true brotherhood" of man; and

WHEREAS El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (MALCOLM X) was assassinated February 21, 1965 at 39 years old while preaching on the possibility of peaceful resolutions to America's race problems; and

WHEREAS, Malcolm X's speeches and written works form core pieces of knowledge regarding the history of the civil rights movement and black nationalism in the US; and

WHEREAS, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (MALCOLM X) never stopped working to better himself as a formerly incarcerated individual through his dedication to religion, self-knowledge and his unselfish pursuit of black liberation denoting "True Brotherhood" until his was assassinated.

WHEREAS, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (MALCOLM X) will be remembered for his contribution to society of underscoring the value of a truly free populace by demonstrating the great lengths to which human beings will go to secure their freedom; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Durham hereby recognizes the valuable contributions and sacrifice of El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (MALCOLM X), and hereby urges all residents to hereby honor the late Malcolm X for his resilience, service and dedication to empowerment through knowledge and his service and dedication to human rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council calls on the Governor, our state and federal legislative delegation to actively support re-entry programs and services for our returning community members, especially those in the black and brown community who are disproportionately jailed in our current criminal legal system.